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Writer’s Statement on Writing Narrative

Sept. 2010

In putting together *Never Too Young,* my hope was to show readers – in this case fellow students of Fall 2010 W400 and our instructor – the way being invited to participate in a young author’s seminar changed how I look at writing and creativity and myself as a part of those artistic endeavors. In showing what it was like for a young child to be drawn into a world of creation and expression through words my purpose was to illustrate the significance with which such an experience can grab hold of an interested youngster.

I decided to write the majority of this narrative from the point of view of myself as a seven-year-old student in the young author’s program. I felt this was important because some of the details of the experience are hazy and I didn’t want to guess at them; I don’t remember being overly excited to participate in this seminar partly because of the passage of time, but also because I didn’t “get it” when I was so young anyway! Also, I feel the perspective helps to show that even as a child I might not have grasped the big-picture meaning in participating but I eventually see that I got so much out of the experience.

I also chose to cut down on my reflection as suggested by Steve. I left some of that reflection in as I felt like I needed to say something in my adult voice about the experience. I have strong feelings about providing opportunities for children to be exposed to creative environments, and adults as well, that I don’t think my seven-year-old self could have commented on this properly! I also made some revisions pertaining to diction in order to clarify my meanings and clear out space to talk about what it was I was actually writing about – the elegant lady. At first I wrote more about what I was drawing rather than about whom this lady was I was creating. This is vital as the creation through words is what has stuck with me – I’m certainly no illustrator!

Given the changes to my conclusion, I’d like to ask your reaction to it. Could I have left the reflection out entirely, and made reflective statements in my writer’s statement? Also, does the narrative rely too heavily on simple, “child-like” phrasing? Is this appropriate for the audience, even though it felt appropriate for the subject matter?